

showcased when she was arrested in March of 2016, as part of the Muscular Dystrophy Association's Lock-Up event to help combat neuromuscular disease. The money that Ms. Thompson raised for bail helped two local children attend an MDA summer camp that gives children with muscle-debilitating diseases the best week of the year.

Ms. Thompson was also instrumental in expanding WSAV's news coverage from 17 hours per week to 30 hours per week and creating a 10 p.m. program reaching a much broader audience.

I am proud to recognize her today for all of her hard work and dedication to southeast Georgia. I wish her the best of luck in the future.

REJECT ATTEMPTS TO REPEAL THE ACA

(Mr. SCHRADER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, in a bizarre rant yesterday, President-elect Donald Trump said he would be "the greatest jobs producer that God ever created." Mr. Trump might need to rethink that statement, given his top priority is to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, while the Republicans haven't given us any details about an ACA replacement policy at all, we know exactly what will happen if they repeal it: millions of jobs will be lost.

Since the ACA was passed in March 2010, the U.S. economy has added more than 15 million private sector jobs and the unemployment rate has been cut in half. In fact, the longest streak in private sector job growth began the month the ACA was passed. Now, folks on the other side of the aisle want to risk all of that going away by repealing the law.

A recent study has found that repealing the ACA would kill 2.6 million jobs in just 1 year, including 45,000 in my home State of Oregon. Thirty million Americans will lose access to health care, and \$350 billion gets added to our budget deficit.

Mr. Speaker, we can't afford the reckless ACA repeal policy. I urge my colleagues to reject attempts to repeal the law and focus on ways we can fix and improve our healthcare system while creating jobs.

REPEALING ACA WITHOUT A REPLACEMENT IS DANGEROUS

(Ms. BARRAGAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BARRAGAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise because I offered an amendment to the budget resolution bill that is going to be up for a vote tomorrow. The amendment that I offered was a statement of policy that repealing the Affordable Care Act without a replace-

ment is dangerous and irresponsible. This is a bipartisan sentiment.

Senator LISA MURKOWSKI, a Republican from Alaska, stated: "I have great concerns that we inject a level of great uncertainty into an already uncertain environment if we don't give people a clear indication as to what will come once we repeal."

I don't support a repeal, but people in my district cannot afford to go without health care in the 44th Congressional District.

I urge my colleagues to think about this, to think and to listen to their Republican colleagues. We need to see a replacement plan.

FIVE IMPACTS OF THE ACA REPEAL

(Ms. JAYAPAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, the immoral effort to take away health care from millions of working families across the country has begun.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, thousands of families in my home State of Washington have been able to get quality health care, and now the Republican majority is set to strip away that healthcare coverage from those struggling to make ends meet.

If they succeed, three quarters of a million Washingtonians will lose their health care; 55,000 young people in our State will be kicked off their parents' healthcare plans; being a woman, once again, becomes a preexisting condition where women would again have to pay out of pocket for basic, preventive screenings and birth control; nearly 4 million Washingtonians, covered by their employers, would see their costs increase and coverage decline; and 50,000 Washingtonians who gained health care through Medicaid expansion will lose it.

Mr. Speaker, health care is a fundamental right and not a privilege. Instead of rolling back the progress we have made, we should be strengthening and expanding health care to cover all who live in our Nation.

DREAMER INFORMATION PROTECTIONS

(Mr. O'ROURKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. O'ROURKE. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday at 1:30 p.m. in El Paso, Texas, hundreds of my fellow citizens will come out to San Jacinto Plaza to join us in celebrating, supporting, and defending those DREAMers who, across this country, are 700,000 strong, who were brought here at a young age are now contributing in, living in our communities, going to school, serving in the military, and helping to create jobs and grow our economy.

I am also introducing tomorrow the DREAMer Information Protection Act

to protect those DREAMers who voluntarily came forward out of the shadows to give their personal information, their names, telephone numbers, and addresses to the Federal Government. I want to protect them and make sure that same government doesn't turn around and use that information to deport them, as the incoming administration has promised to end the executive DACA action and potentially deport those DREAMers on who this country is depending, not just for our economic success but our growth and success as a country that has always gained from immigrants who contribute to the American way of life.

SUPPORTING BETSY DEVOS' NOMINATION

(Mr. BISHOP of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BISHOP of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of a true leader and friend, Betsy DeVos, for the nomination of Secretary of Education.

By far and away, Betsy DeVos is the ideal candidate to guide our Nation's education policies. For three decades, she has been focused on making sure all of our Nation's children have access to quality education, particularly for the disenfranchised and those in real need.

The Associated Press recently ran a piece highlighting West Michigan Aviation Academy and the tremendous difference the school is making in the lives of the children in Michigan. Betsy DeVos had her hand in that process, as she has in so many of the other schools across western Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, being from Michigan myself, I have seen firsthand what Betsy DeVos has done for education in Michigan. She understands the important role of public schools in the K-12 system, but also believes that competition, school choice, and parental control will help drive success in all schools to ensure that all children are receiving the best possible education, no matter their circumstances.

I hope to work with my friends on the other side of the Capitol. And I hope, during this time before the Senate committee considers Ms. DeVos' nomination, that the rest of the Nation will hear of the great things that Betsy DeVos has done and see how qualified she is for this job.

MICHIGANDERS CONCERNED OVER REPEAL OF ACA

(Mrs. DINGELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, last weekend, I held a roundtable discussion in my district with healthcare providers, hospitals, doctors, nurses, clinics, labor leaders, and working families

to talk about what the Affordable Care Act means to them. All of them are opposed and concerned for the repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

We talked about how important it was to protect the 695,000 Michiganders who have gained coverage since the ACA was enacted and the fact that the uninsured rate in Michigan has been cut in half.

The story that struck me the most was from a local clergyman, Bishop Walter Starghill, who gained coverage for the first time through Medicaid expansion. He told me:

The impact on Black men with increased access to insurance coverage is big. We didn't take care of ourselves until it was too late. We ended up in the emergency room and some of us died. Now we can get checked out early.

I heard from another local UAW worker who said:

I come from a family where many members have struggled with cancer. We wouldn't have healthcare coverage after leaving our jobs or we'd have gone bankrupt without the ACA.

Everywhere I go in the district, people are frightened and come up and say: What will happen?

Tomorrow, you need to look people in the eye and tell them why you are taking their insurance away.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GAETZ). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2017, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Joint Economic Committee:

Mr. PAULSEN, Minnesota
Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Arizona
Mrs. COMSTOCK, Virginia
Mr. LAHOOD, Illinois
Mr. FRANCIS ROONEY, Florida
Mrs. CAROLYN MALONEY, New York
Mr. DELANEY, Maryland
Ms. ADAMS, North Carolina
Mr. BEYER, Virginia

INTRODUCING REPUBLICAN FRESHMEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to be here tonight. As we all get started in a new session, we get started with the newness and excitement. We have already hit the ground running.

This Congress is going to be one of action. The American people spoke. They spoke loudly—they have been over the past few years—saying that the direction of our country needed to change. By changing, they meant change toward a government that is

more conservative, one that is listening to them and hasn't forgot that it is not about the government worker that we are about in this place and not about government in and of itself, but it is about what government does for the American people.

Tonight, as I have taken on my role as the vice chair in the Republican Conference, we have been talking about how we can introduce our Members and also work to get our messaging out.

Tonight is the first night where we have some of our new freshmen here on the floor, Mr. Speaker, as you can well attest to. We are going to take time just to get to know them, where they came from, introduce them to the floor, and introduce them to what we are going to be about and what their passion is to share with as part of our majority going forward.

The first gentleman is a dear friend from my home State of Georgia. He is, as what we call back home a dagg, D-A-G-G. We don't use the extra G, but we will do the first G. How about that?

He is a mayor from West Point, Georgia. He understands what real life is about. He understands about making jobs and getting people taken care of. He also is a dentist. He is going to stay on this side of the aisle tonight, Mr. Speaker, because I am not going over there to find out anything about that.

We are excited to have him. It is going to be a good time tonight.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. FERGUSON).

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to deliver my first remarks on the House floor.

Before I became mayor of West Point, I watched my hometown almost fall completely apart. I saw what happened when bad Washington policies almost destroyed my hometown by creating the environment for manufacturing jobs to go overseas. I watched Federal programs that were failing to meet the needs of my friends and neighbors try to take the place of good jobs.

The Federal programs weren't fixing the underlying programs in my hometown. They were simply catching people in the cycle of poverty, and we surely didn't want a handout. We wanted jobs.

I was faced with a choice of whether or not to move my dental practice and my family away from my hometown to a more profitable community or get involved and be part of the solution. I chose to get involved and work to better the lives of my neighbors and my hometown.

Instead of being satisfied with one-size-fits-all government programs that simply perpetuated the existing problems, we worked to bring manufacturing jobs back to West Point, Georgia, by making targeted investments in economic development and infrastructure.

We attracted a Kia Motors manufacturing plant, and the automotive industry brought with it suppliers and

other related businesses that produced over 15,000 jobs in just a few years.

□ 1815

The city of West Point and the surrounding area today is revitalized not because of Federal Government programs or regulations, but because we worked at the local level to find solutions to meet the needs of our area.

I ran for Congress so that I could apply these lessons at the Federal level. We need policies that make America the most competitive place in the world to do business instead of creating policies that incentivize companies to take their jobs overseas. We need policies that help get people out of poverty instead of trapping them in a multigenerational cycle of poverty.

I know firsthand that more government programs do not make communities, schools, or individuals great. In fact, I have lived through and governed out of the dependence created by bad D.C. policy and government programs that continue to trap people in poverty.

What we have collectively done to those in poverty with these policies is morally wrong. There is a better way, and we will do right by our fellow Americans. I am excited to work with my colleagues to craft and enact these policies that will improve the lives of our citizens.

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Georgia and his passion to serve and be a part of what is going to be going on here. We are a week away from the inauguration of our new President-elect, and we are excited about that and moving forward.

As we move across the country, all the way to Arizona, our next speaker is the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS). I am looking forward to serving with ANDY BIGGS on the Judiciary Committee. His background is working to promote a conservative, small-business agenda, which is something that is going to be valuable here. He is also an author. For those of us working in intellectual property and copyright, that is very important. There is so much job creation that is made by the intellectual spark that comes from our entrepreneurs. Tonight I am honored to have the second of our speakers, ANDY BIGGS from Arizona's Fifth Congressional District.

I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding, and I am grateful for this opportunity to introduce myself to this Chamber.

My name is ANDY BIGGS. I represent Arizona's Fifth Congressional District. I hope to pick up where my good friend and predecessor, former Congressman Matt Salmon, left off. He left me big shoes to fill, but I am blessed to be able to counsel with him, and I am honored to follow his example.

My district covers parts of the southeast metropolitan area of Phoenix, the